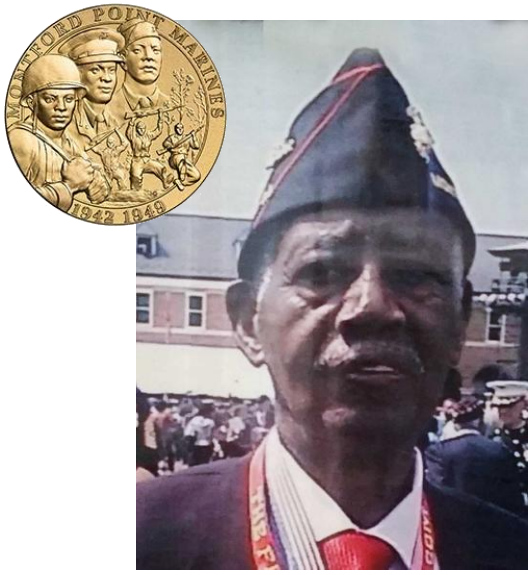
Press Release

NATIONAL MONTFORD POINT MARINE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Bereavement Announcement of
Mr. Thomas Mosley



July 25, 1924 - January 30, 2016

(Original Montford Point Marine)

Thomas Mosley 91, of Macon, Georgia passed away on January 30, 2016 in Macon, Ga. He had been fighting an illness and passed away in his sleep.

Thomas Mosley was born in Steelton, Pennsylvania on July 25, 1924. He was one of thirteen children born to Lula Mae and Henry Mosley in Steelton, Pennsylvania. Thomas Mosley received his primary education in the elementary schools in Steelton, and then went on to attend Steelton High School.

From an early age, Thomas attended Beulah Baptist Church and was baptized in 1936. He was very active at Beulah Baptist and was a teacher for the Jr. Sunday School Class. He was also active as a Choir Member, on the Usher Board, a Trustee member and was also a Jr. Deacon.

In June, 1942, Mr. Mosley began his Civil Service Career with the United States Government in Middletown, Pa., by attending the Pennsylvania School of Aeronautics. While there, he studied courses about Aircraft sheet metal and the dynamics for its uses pertaining to aircraft. Shortly thereafter he was promoted to a Jr. Aircraft Sheet Metal Mechanic.

On June 25, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802, barring discriminatory employment practices by Federal agencies. With this being done, the gateway was opened for African Americans to also join the Marines, which had been exclusively white for 167 years but was also a Federal agency. On November 15, 1943 Thomas Mosley was inducted into the United States Marine Corps and was the first African American from Steelton, Pennsylvania, to enter the Corps. He was only 19 years of age.

Thomas Mosley not only joined the Marines, but he was an Original Montford Point Marine. They received their training in New River, North Carolina, in the town of Jacksonville, at Montford Point Camp. This camp was located about 12 miles from Camp Lejeune, one of the largest Marine Corps training facilities on the east coast. He was in the 5th Ammunition Company and the 365th Platoon at Montford Point. These Marines, were of course, not wanted in the Corps, but became outstanding soldiers that received their training in "boot camp" under the most hostile, racist and segregated conditions. Nevertheless these men, when called overseas in WWII, performed their duties gallantly, performing in every major battle that was fought in the isles of the South Pacific including Guam, Peleliu, Roi-Namur, Saipan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Kwajalein, Guadalcanal and other places too numerous to name.

Mr. Mosley was stationed in Oahu, Hawaii, at Camp Catlin during his time in WWII. Thomas Mosley was assigned at this point to the Company of the 5th Marine Division. He was an Ammunition Specialist. His duties were to distribute the much needed ammunition to the hundreds of thousands of Marines that were battling on the front lines in the South Pacific via the U. S. Naval Fleet.

Thomas Mosley was discharged in April, 1946 where he returned to Steelton, Pa., continuing his Civil training at Olmstead Air Force Base in Middletown, Pa. Through his training he became a master sheet metal mechanic in Aeronautics. Continuing his education, he enrolled in Thompson Business College where he graduated after matriculating in their Business Administration courses.

While in Steelton, Pa., Thomas met and married his wife, the late Rebecca Mosley, and together they raised a family of seven children in Harrisburg, Pa.

In 1965, after Olmstead Air Force Base was being phased out, for closing, Mr. Mosley was afforded the opportunity to move to various sections of the country to continue his work with the Government. He chose Macon, Ga., where six of his children and his wife moved to.

Mr. Mosley was very proud of his accomplishments while working in his capacities of responsibilities. Some of the promotions he received were: Production Control Engineering, Maintenance Workload-Headquarters, and he also served as an EEO Officer.

In 1966, after being in Macon, Ga., for just a short while, Thomas Mosley became a member of New Hope Baptist Church. There he served, until his departure from this life. While at New Hope Baptist church, he served in various capacities such as Adult Sunday School Teacher, the Senior Choir, Trustee and also Superintendent. Eventually, he became *Deacon Thomas Mosley*.

Mosley had also been a lifelong member of the NAACP. He believed in the struggles for freedom and met many of the famous participants who were involved in the struggle including members of Dr. Martin Luther King's family and others. In 1963, Thomas Mosley participated in the March on Washington, D.C., where Dr. King delivered his famous "I have a Dream Speech."

On June 27, 2012, Thomas Mosley and approximately 400-500 Original Montford Point Marines (1942-1949) received the Congressional Gold Medal at Emancipation Hall in the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC. This is the highest Medal of Honor that can be bestowed upon a civilian by either the President of the United States or Congress.

On October 28, 2012, Mosley was awarded the "Earl T. Shinhoster" award by the NAACP Chapter of Macon, Ga. Also in 2015, there was a new award created for Mosley, entitled "Thomas Mosley Veterans Award" by the Macon, Ga., NAACP branch.

On November 10, 2015 the Bibb County Board of Education President, Dr. Thelma Dillard presided over a ceremony in the renaming of the Rutland High School, Marine Corps Jr. ROTC program. Dr. Dillard initiated the idea which was then presented to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Curtis Jones, who approved the motion. In an outstanding ceremony the department was changed to *Corporal Thomas Mosley and Pfc. Frank Johnson Marine Corps Education Leadership Department.*

Thomas Mosley is survived by his children James Belcher of Philadelphia, PA., Helen (Sam) Akins of Steelton, Pa., and Thomas Mosley Jr. of Philadelphia, Pa., Eugene (Soonai) Mosley of Sicklerville, N.J., Karen Coates and Annette Davenport of Harrisburg, Pa. and Saundra Walker of Macon, Ga.

He is also survived by his siblings, Gloria Daniels of Harrisburg, Pa., Christine (Ellis) Young, Agnes Davis and Mary Thompson of Oberlin, Pa., Beatrice Harrison of Limerick, Pa., Clarence Mosley of Bressler, Pa., many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren along with a host of nieces and nephews, a special cousin, Ms. 'Cora', and many family members and friends too numerous to name.